

Claims

- [c1] In a computer-implemented rating system having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor, a method comprising:
providing an interface capable of displaying at least a portion of the data;
enabling a user to input at least one coefficient value through the interface;
computing a sustainability score using the coefficient value and the data, the sustainability score utilizing the at least one non-economic factor in a formula that is viewable by the user through the interface; and
outputting the sustainability score.
- [c2] The method of claim 1, further comprising:
storing the user-input coefficient value in an account associated with the user.
- [c3] The method of claim 1, wherein
the data concerns non-economic factors for multiple companies,
each company belongs to an industry,
the interface further enables the user to select one of the companies and one of the industries, and

computing uses the data concerning the selected one of the companies.

[c4] The method of claim 3, wherein the sustainability score for an industry is computed from data concerning non-economic factors of companies in the industry.

[c5] The method of claim 3, further comprising presenting the formula to the user through the interface.

[c6] The method of claim 3, further comprising: subsequently receiving later data concerning at least one non-economic factor for a company; and computing a subsequent sustainability score for the company using the later data.

[c7] The method of claim 6, further comprising: waiting to receive a verification flag respecting the later data prior to computing the subsequent sustainability score.

[c8] The method of claim 6, wherein the later data is received from at least one of the public and the company.

[c9] The method of claim 6, wherein the data concerns non-economic factors for multiple companies,

the method further comprising:
defining a derivative index product comprising a selection of companies among the multiple companies,
pricing the derivative product; and
offering the derivative product for purchase and sale in a public market.

- [c10] The method of claim 9, wherein the later data is received as a response to a questionnaire.
- [c11] The method of claim 9, further comprising:
establishing a secure entity reporting channel, and
wherein the later data is received over the channel.
- [c12] The method of claim 1, wherein the sustainability score includes a plurality of individual scores corresponding to discrete sustainability criteria.
- [c13] The method of claim 12, wherein the coefficient value is used to compute at least one of the individual scores.
- [c14] The method of claim 12, wherein the sustainability score is computed by combining at least two of the individual scores, and the coefficient value is used to affect how the individual scores are combined.

- [c15] The method of claim 12, wherein the discrete sustainability criteria include at least one of a social responsibility rating, an environmental responsibility rating, and a corporate governance rating.
- [c16] The method of claim 15, wherein the discrete sustainability criteria further include an economic rating.
- [c17] The method of claim 1, further comprising: benchmarking the sustainability score against a reference score.
- [c18] The method of claim 1, wherein the data concerns non-economic factors for multiple governments, the interface further enables the user to select one of the governments, and computing uses the data concerning the selected one of the governments.
- [c19] A computer for implementing a rating system, the computer having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor, the computer comprising:
 - means for displaying at least a portion of the data and a formula that generates a sustainability score;

means for enabling a user to input at least one coefficient value;
a processor configured to compute the sustainability score using the formula provided with the coefficient value and the data; and
means for outputting the sustainability score.

[c20] The computer of claim 19, further comprising:
means for storing the user-input coefficient value in an account associated with the user.

[c21] The computer of claim 19, wherein
the data concerns non-economic factors for multiple companies,
each company belongs to an industry,
the means for enabling the user further enables the user to select one of the companies and one of the industries,
and
the means for computing uses the data concerning the selected one of the companies.

[c22] The computer of claim 21, wherein
the sustainability score for an industry is computed from data concerning non-economic factors of companies in the industry.

[c23] The computer of claim 21, wherein

a plurality of sustainability scores for respective companies is computed and compared.

- [c24] The computer of claim 21, further comprising:
 - means for subsequently receiving later data concerning at least one non-economic factor for a company; and
 - means for computing a subsequent sustainability score for the company using the later data.
- [c25] The computer of claim 24, further comprising:
 - means for waiting to receive a verification flag respecting the later data prior to computing the subsequent sustainability score.
- [c26] The computer of claim 24, wherein the later data is received from the public.
- [c27] The computer of claim 24, wherein the later data is received from the company.
- [c28] The computer of claim 24, wherein the later data is received as a response to a questionnaire.
- [c29] The computer of claim 24, further comprising:
 - means for establishing a secure entity reporting channel, and
 - wherein the later data is received over the channel.

- [c30] The computer of claim 19, wherein the sustainability score includes a plurality of individual scores corresponding to discrete sustainability criteria.
- [c31] The computer of claim 30, wherein the coefficient value is used to compute at least one of the individual scores.
- [c32] The computer of claim 30, wherein the sustainability score is computed by combining at least two of the individual scores, and the coefficient value is used to affect how the individual scores are combined.
- [c33] The computer of claim 30, wherein the discrete sustainability criteria include at least one of a social responsibility rating, an environmental responsibility rating, and a corporate governance rating.
- [c34] The computer of claim 33, wherein the discrete sustainability criteria further include an economic rating.
- [c35] The computer of claim 19, further comprising: means for benchmarking the sustainability score against a reference score.
- [c36] The computer of claim 19, wherein

the data concerns non-economic factors for multiple governments,
the interface further enables the user to select one of the governments, and
the means for computing is adapted to use the data concerning the selected one of the governments.

- [c37] A computer for implementing a rating system, the computer having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor, the computer comprising:
an interface configured to display at least a portion of the data, to enable input of at least one coefficient value, and to display a formula useful in computing a sustainability score; and
a processor configured to compute the sustainability score using the formula in conjunction with any input coefficient values and the data, and
wherein the interface is further capable of outputting the sustainability score.
- [c38] The computer of claim 37, further comprising:
a memory for storing the input coefficient values in an account associated with the user.
- [c39] The computer of claim 37, wherein
the data concerns non-economic factors for multiple

companies,
each company belongs to an industry,
the interface further enables the user to select one of the
companies and one of the industries, and
the processor uses the data concerning the selected one
of the companies.

- [c40] The computer of claim 39, wherein
the sustainability score for an industry is computed from
data concerning non-economic factors of companies in
the industry.
- [c41] The computer of claim 39, wherein
a plurality of sustainability scores for respective compa-
nies is computed and compared.
- [c42] The computer of claim 39, wherein
the interface is capable of receiving later data concerning
at least one non-economic factor for a company; and
the processor is adapted to further compute a subse-
quent sustainability score for the company using the
later data.
- [c43] The computer of claim 42, wherein
the processor is adapted to further wait to receive a veri-
fication flag respecting the later data prior to computing
the subsequent sustainability score.

- [c44] The computer of claim 42, wherein the later data is received from the public.
- [c45] The computer of claim 42, wherein the later data is received from the company.
- [c46] The computer of claim 45, wherein the later data is received as a response to a questionnaire.
- [c47] The computer of claim 45, wherein the interface is adapted to further establish a secure entity reporting channel, and the later data is received over the channel.
- [c48] The computer of claim 37, wherein the sustainability score includes a plurality of individual scores corresponding to discrete sustainability criteria.
- [c49] The computer of claim 48, wherein the coefficient value is used to compute at least one of the individual scores.
- [c50] The computer of claim 48, wherein the sustainability score is computed by combining at least two of the individual scores, and the coefficient value is used to affect how the individual scores are combined.

- [c51] The computer of claim 48, wherein the discrete sustainability criteria include at least one of a social responsibility rating, an environmental responsibility rating, and a corporate governance rating.
- [c52] The computer of claim 51, wherein the discrete sustainability criteria further include an economic rating.
- [c53] The computer of claim 37, further comprising: the processor is adapted to further benchmark the sustainability score against a reference score.
- [c54] The computer of claim 37, wherein the data concerns non-economic factors for multiple governments, the interface further enables the user to select one of the governments, and computing uses the data concerning the selected one of the governments.
- [c55] In a computer-implemented rating system having access to a database populated with data concerning at least one non-economic factor, a method comprising: providing an interface, the interface including an audio output portion capable of conveying at least a portion of the data aurally;

enabling a user to input at least one coefficient value through the interface;

computing a sustainability score using the coefficient value and the data, the sustainability score utilizing the at least one non-economic factor in a formula that is accessible by the user through the interface; and

outputting the sustainability score.